

VZCZCXRO5211
PP RUEHLA
DE RUEHMD #0175 0321808
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 011808Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1751
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1071
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4980
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 1666
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0811
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2711
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1231
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 1038
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 2036
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3079
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0595
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0575
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0470
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 5086
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 0309
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 1275
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 1214
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 0225
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 2409

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000175

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DEPT FOR WHA/AND LOURDES CUE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [SP](#) [VE](#)

SUBJECT: SPANISH POLDIR ON VENEZUELA AND PRESS FREEDOMS

REF: A. STATE 12181

[1](#)B. MADRID 174

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

(C) DCM raised the USG's concern regarding the threat to press freedom in Venezuela (ref A) during a broader discussion with MFA PolDir Rafael Dezcallar on February 1 (ref B). DCM said that the US is concerned about the Chavez government's decision to close RCTV, particularly in the context of other steps that Chavez has taken to concentrate power in the executive branch of his government. He asked that Spain raise the issue with the GOV and also make a show of support for OAS SYG Insulza. Dezcallar said that the GOS is worried by Chavez's recent actions. He said that the GOS won't be inactive, but is currently considering the best action to take. He said that the GOS is open to USG suggestions. Embassy plans to follow-up and discuss this further with Secretary for Latin American Affairs Trini Jimenez and with MFA DG for Latin American Sandomingo. Aguirre